

September 19, 2007

Dear Parents,

“You are O God, my inheritance. I have all I need.”

Psalm 16

This Saturday will mark the **one year anniversary of the death of my Mother**. This past year has definitely been a year of closure. Throughout the year, my siblings and I cleaned out the home that she shared with my Dad for 45 years. To say that this was an emotional experience would be an understatement. We had many opportunities for tears and for laughter. I don't think that Mother ever discarded a Cool Whip® container or a grocery bag. Growing up in the depression, she knew the value of everything. When our home place finally sold, it was both a relief and a time of sadness. A young couple has purchased it with the hopes of raising their family there one day. The estate closed only a few weeks ago. As the executor, it was nice to know that this responsibility had ended. However, it was challenging for me to realize that this was really it. The tangible entanglement with the “things” of my parents life had come to a close. Now I hold closely the real legacy that my parents gave to me...a belief in God deeply rooted in the Catholic tradition, an appreciation for the covenant of marriage modeled through their love for one another, an understanding of the importance of family, the importance of apologies, the healing gift of laughter, and a spirit of gratitude for all things. I think this is **my real inheritance**.

Grandparents Day 2007 was very well attended with over **250 Grandparents** visiting our school. What a joy it was to watch the interaction of the students with their Grandparents. The connection between generations energized our school.

Grandparents Day next year will be held **September 12th and 15th, 2008**. Let your parents know the dates now so that they can plan ahead.

An important letter for **Grade 8 parents** is included in today's Wednesday folder.

This week's **Angel Bucks** total sales were **\$17,188 with a total profit of \$1,061.87!** If you have not started utilizing this program, I would encourage you to consider starting today. Grandparents were purchasing Angel Bucks during their visit here also.

Students in **Grade 5** will attend **Mass on Wednesday, September 26th at 8:30 AM**. Grade 5 students will also receive their Catholic Youth Bibles at this Mass. Students in **Grade 4** will attend **Mass on Thursday, September 27th at 8:30 AM**. You are invited to join them.

School picture proofs are included in today's Wednesday folder. **Orders can be placed online. Information regarding ordering** is included with the proofs.

The initial meetings of the **Science Olympiad** were held last week. A total of **50 students** signed up for this new club. Mrs. Davey and Mrs. Reed are thrilled with the

overwhelming response of student interest in the Science Olympiad. Meetings will take place on Thursday mornings (7:15-7:45) and Thursday afternoons (3:15-4:00), starting on **Thursday, October 18th**. If any parents are willing to volunteer their expertise and serve as **coaches**, please **contact Mrs. Davey** as soon as possible. Thank you for all your support in building the **St. Michael Science Olympiad Team!**

The **2007-2008 St. Michael School Directory** is included in your Wednesday folder today. Please be advised that this directory is for the purpose of staying connected with others in our school community. The directory should **not be sold or used for personal business or marketing purposes**.

The **Iowa Test of Basic Skills** will be administered to students in **Grades 2 – 8 beginning on October 1st**. A light peanut-free **snack will be provided** to each child. However, students should be sure to bring their Nalgene® type water bottle to use during the test. **Bottled water will not be provided** to the students. St. Michael School water bottles are available in the office for \$10.00 and can be used by the students all year.

We will celebrate the **feast of St. Michael the Archangel on Thursday, September 27th**. The **actual feast is Saturday, September 29th**. Students will have a **classroom celebration at 2:00 PM** that afternoon. In addition, each child will be given a **small feast day gift**.

The **Diocese of Raleigh In-Service for teachers** will be held on **Friday, September 28th** at **Cardinal Gibbons High School**. **School will not be in session for students** on this day. In addition, **school will not be in session on Friday, October 5th** due to the set up for the International Festival. There will be **no child care** available on this day as the school building will be closed.

The **first parent education night** of **2007-2008** sponsored by the St. Michael PTO will be held on **Tuesday, October 2nd at 7:00 PM** in the **Parish Center**. **Mr. John Findlater, a national speaker and educator**, will be the presenter. His topic is: **“Getting a Grip on Kids Today: Raising Kids in a Crazy and Confusing World.”** **Students** whose **parents attend** the session will receive an **out-of-uniform coupon**. If you attend the session, be sure to sign-in. The **teachers** heard Mr. Findlater speak last year at the North Carolina Catholic Teachers Conference in Greensboro and enjoyed his wit and wisdom.

Parents who wish to **chaperone field trips or to volunteer in the school at any time where they may have the opportunity to be alone with a child**, must complete the background check on the **Diocese of Raleigh website (www.raldioc.org)**. This background check must be completed prior to a parent being cleared as a chaperone. Parents who will be coaching or involved as a club sponsor must also attend a **two-hour Safe Environment Training Session**. A list of session locations is also available on the diocesan website. **Please e-mail me if you have questions or Mrs. Burton if you have questions about accessing the website.**

The students were informed this week about a contest that will help us to **name our former "After School Care Room"** which is also used as our cafeteria, P.E. room, Before School Care Room, and space for small assemblies. The contest is open to **any student enrolled in St. Michael School**. A student can submit a **maximum of 2 entries**. **Deadline for submission of entries is October 1st**. The student who creates the winning name will receive a **\$50 gift card** to any vendor provided by our Angel Bucks program and the honor of knowing that they have been a part of the history of their school.

On **October 17th** there will be a **High School Information Night** for parents from **7:00 to 9:00 PM in the Lewis Room at St. Raphael School**. There will be representatives from **Cardinal Gibbons High School, St. Thomas More Academy, Raleigh Charter High School and Wake County Public Schools Magnet Programs**. They will be speaking about their programs and providing information regarding applications, parent information nights, etc. For more information contact: **Pam Seymour at 865-5754**.

Cardinal Gibbons High School presents "**Into The Woods Junior**," a whimsical musical great for all ages! The fairy tale will be showing **September 27th – 29th at 7:30 PM and September 30th at 2:00 PM**. Tickets are **\$1.00 for students and \$5.00 for the general public**. For more information contact **Kevin Ferguson at (919) 834-1625 ext. 381**.

The **first Catholic Jeopardy meetings** of the year will take place on **Tuesday, September 25th for students in Grades 3, 4, and 5 and Wednesday, September 26th for Grades 6, 7, and 8**. The session will begin right after dismissal and **end at 4:00 PM**. Students will be dismissed from the office side of the building. Please contact me with any questions.

The **International Festival** is quickly approaching. Plan to participate in the **3K Family Fun Run/Walk on Saturday, October 6th**. The class with the greatest participation will be awarded an out-of-uniform day. Watch for more information coming soon.

Continue to collect **Boxtops and Campbell® Soup labels**. Last year we were able to purchase some of the tables for our new cafeteria with the funds generated by this collection.

Peace,
Dr. Sarah Wannemuehler